

**Abstract**

There is disclosed a sample processing system for processing a sample contained in a  
5 liquid. Specifically, there is disclosed a sample processing system comprising a pipettor, and  
a cartridge. The cartridge comprises a chamber which has an inlet and an outlet. The  
chamber contains a microarray device having an active surface . The active surface is  
accessible to liquid contained in the chamber. The cartridge further comprises an optical  
interface that provides optical access to the active surface of the microarray device, an inlet  
10 port and an outlet port. The inlet port is so configured and dimensioned that it forms an air-  
tight connection with a pipette tip when the pipette tip is inserted into the inlet port.